

From: Michael Brunskill
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 3:49pm
Subject: Public Comment Period

Dear Sirs,

As a computer user who has participated in the evolution of computer systems from the old teletype terminals of the Dartmouth Timesharing System on which I learned to program in Basic in 1973 to the incredible PC technology that exists today, I can say emphatically that Microsoft has done more to improve and enhance computing than any other single entity. To say that Microsoft has stifled competition is ludicrous. The cost of software, absolute and relative, has plunged dramatically because of the WORLD's acceptance Microsoft's Windows operating system. The very fact that the closest competitor, LINUX, is FREE to consumers proves this point. Another competing product to Microsoft's Office product line, Star Office, is also FREE, and like all others that want to have any chance of acceptance, the files are fully exchangeable with Microsoft systems. I well remember the days of several competing word processing systems, none of which were interchangeable, which truly hampered commerce. Microsoft, though it's innovation and superior products, has set the standard WORLDWIDE for consumer software interoperability far better than any government organization ever could. This in turn has lead to sustained increases in worker productivity, which have been a major factor in the economic boom of the 90's.

One of the largest detractors of Microsoft is America OnLine. While Microsoft has opened up it's operating system to any competent software developer, AOL software is proprietary and closed. They do not use industry standards for such basic services as email and news services, requiring the use of their unique software for this purpose. Please consider the source in evaluating the objections to this settlement, which is still punitive to Microsoft in my opinion and entirely unnecessary.

Best Regards-

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